National Highways Authority of India has awarded four laning of Zirakpur-Parwanoo section of NH-22 with package cost as Rs. 295 crore on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, about 6 km of which passes through Himachal Pradesh. No expenditure has been incurred thereon.

Nearly 11 km length of Pathankot (Punjab)-Bhogpur (Punjab) package of four laning on National Highway-1A passes through Himachal Pradesh. It is difficult to separate out expenditure on this package State-wise.

In addition to above, Border Roads Organisation is also incurring expenditure on maintenance of National Highway-22 from Wangtoo to Pooh from G. S. Funds as a continuing process.

Shortage of Indian officers for country's flag carriers

1147. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of Indian officers for the country's flag carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to recruit foreign officers;

(d) if so, whether the proposal has met with stiff opposition from Trade Unions; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (e) In view of the acute shortage of Indian officers, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions in consultation with the shipping industry.

Delay in NH Projects

1148. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that differences on key policy issues between Ministries from bidding norms to concession agreements and the delay in

sorting these out have derailed the schedule of the National Highway Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that since the beginning of this financial year, April, 2006, as against a targeted award of contracts for 1,273 km. under NHDP-II (the North-South, East-West corridor), contracts were out for just 450 km.; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the current financial year contracts for a total length of 845 km. have been awarded under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-II as on 31.01.2007.

(c) Some factors which have affected the award of contracts under NHDP Phase-II are as under:—

(i) Delay in finalization of Detailed Project Report (DPR) in difficult climate and terrain in Jammu and Kashmir;

(ii) Realignment of NH-31 and NH-31C in West Bengal and Assam because of Wild Life Sanctuary; and

(iii) Change in the procedure for approval of sub-projects under NHDP, Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)/Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs (CCEA) route instead of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Board.

National Disaster Management Support System (NDMSS)

1149. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO propose to develop an advance disaster warning system i.e., the National Disaster Management Support System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and